

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303508  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-05  
CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AGRE-00 L-03 H-01 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J: SMECTON:KAR  
APPROVED BY EA/J: NPLATT  
STR:RRIVERS  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
AGRICULTURE, STR, COMMERCE, TREASURY  
-----112460 211412Z /45  
R 210053Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, PGOV, JA

SUBJECT: NAKAO DISCUSSIONS ON AGRICULTURE LIBERALIZATION

REF: TOKYO 19280

1. NAKAO, CHAIRMAN OF LDP AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, HAS MET WITH AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND A WIDE RANGE OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN SINCE DEC 16. HE HAS OTHER CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED AND HAS REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND ON WEDNESDAY.

2. A JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL NAKAO WAS SCEPTICAL OF THE VARIOUS REPORTS OF GROWING PROTECTIONISM, BUT THAT HE HAS SINCE REMARKED ON HOW COMPLETELY THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED FROM WHEN HE VISITED  
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LAST SUMMER. NAKAO HAS, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT, BASED ON HIS CONGRESSIONAL TALKS, HE BELIEVES THE ADMINISTRATION HAS OVERSTATED THE STRENGTH OF PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES. THE

EMBASSY OFFICER ALSO OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT BECAUSE OF NAKAO'S KEY POSITION THE REPORT HE TAKES BACK MAY BE THE DETERMINING VOICE IN DECIDING WHAT IS DONE ON

FURTHER AGRICULTURE LIBERALIZATION.

3. DURING HIS FRIDAY MORNING CALL ON AMBASSADOR STRAUSS,

NAKAO WARNED OF THE "DEVASTATING IMPACT" FURTHER  
LIBERALIZATION WOULD HAVE ON JAPANESE FARMERS AND STRESSED  
THAT THE FARMERS WERE THE SYMBOL OF JAPANESE PATRIOTISM.  
HE UNDERScoreD THAT THE FARMERS WERE THE BACKBONE OF LDP  
STRENGTH BY POINTING OUT THAT JAPAN HAS 280 DIET  
REPRESENTATIVES FROM RURAL AREAS.

4. AFTER STRESSING THE MUTUALITY OF THE PROBLEM, STRAUSS  
PREDICTED THAT JAPAN "WILL HAVE PROBLEMS WITH YOUR FARMERS  
OR OUR CONGRESS." HE SUGGESTED THAT CONGRESS WILL ACT  
UNLESS THERE ARE CONCESSIONS OF BOTH ECONOMIC AND  
POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE SUCH AS THE U.S.-REQUESTED  
INCREASES OF \$55 MILLION FOR BEEF AND \$60 MILLION FOR

CITRUS. STRAUSS SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE A PARTNERSHIP OR

CONGRESS WOULD BEGIN TO CLOSE DOORS; NAKAO SAID THAT AN  
ATTACK ON AGRICULTURE WOULD STRAIN THE RELATIONSHIP. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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